

claim for foreign priority to application number ZL99244527 filed in the Peoples Republic of China. Applicant will file a certified copy of the application as required by 35 U.S.C § 119(b).

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge applicant's claim of priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 150,788 filed on August 26, 1999. Applicant requested priority to this Application on August 24, 2000 at the time the present application was filed. Applicant has included a copy of the Letter of Transmittal and the Request for Benefit in support of this request.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,229,266 to Justice et al. Applicant respectfully submits that Justice et al. do not anticipate claims 1-8 because Justice et al. is not a proper 102(e) reference. Applicant respectfully notes that Justice et al. was filed on October 12, 1999. Applicant has claimed priority to Provisional Application No. 150,788 filed on August 26, 1999, which precedes the application of Justice et al. Justice et al., therefore, was not "published . . . before the invention by the applicant for patent . . ." as required by 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been overcome.

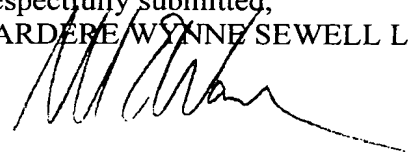
Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Justice et al. For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that Justice et al. is not prior art according to 35 U.S.C. § 103 with respect to the present application. Applicant respectfully notes that Justice et al. was filed on October 12, 1999. Applicant has claimed priority to Provisional Application No. 150,788 filed on August 26, 1999, which precedes the application of Justice et al. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been overcome.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and arguments stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in allowable form. As such, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9.

Respectfully submitted,
GARDEBE WYNN SEWELL LLP



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Sanford E. Warren, Jr.
Reg. No. 33,219

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

1601 Elm Street, Suite 3000
Dallas, Texas 75201
(214) 999-3000 - Telephone
(214) 999-4667 - Facsimile